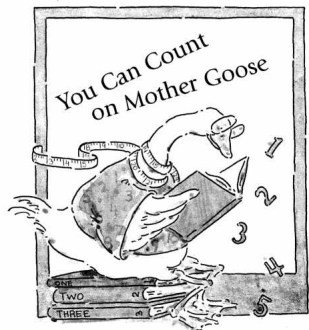


# PARENTS

This newsletter is created and distributed by the Office of Library and Information Services



April 2002

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Credits

Mother Goose Is Online!

[www.ori.state.ri.us/youthserv/mgoose](http://www.ori.state.ri.us/youthserv/mgoose)

Priscilla Tremblay, Editor  
AmeriCorps\*VISTA Assistant

## Parents Forum

By Priscilla Tremblay, Editor

Providence Public Library, partnered with Cianci Head Start to expose nine more families to *You Can Count on Mother Goose* for five sessions each Wednesday afternoon from March 6, 2002 to April 3, 2002. What fun was had!

I went to sessions 2 & 3 and met nine parents, excited to bring home to their children math concepts through great children's literature.

At session two we read **How Many, How Many, How Many** by Rick Walton and **Ten Minutes till Bedtime** by Peggy Rathmann after preliminary questions of how people think about math, numbers and counting

What would help these parents introduce math concepts to their young children? Rote counting, one to one correspondence, estimating, comparing and recognizing are all ways pre-school children are learning many different concepts about math.

We continued on with activities of book making, cracker counting and domino and card playing to show the various ways a child will see math concepts at home first.

At the third session, we read three books: **The Shape of Things** by Dayle Ann Dodds, **Where are you going Manyoni?** by Catherine Stock and **Taking a Walk-Caminando** by Rebecca Emberley.

As with other aspects of math, children have learned about shapes and spaces since the moment they were born. Yet knowing about shapes and spaces is more complex than just knowing the names of common geometric shapes like circle, square, and triangle.

Through reading the books in the series of *You Can Count on Mother Goose* sessions, a parent is assisted in asking the questions that will encourage discovery about math concepts.

And like *Mother Goose Asks "Why?"*, the parent is given instruction to help their child process these important skills that will provide a lifelong love of literature as well as math

At the third session, I began to look back on my own introduction to Mother Goose Programs with a stir of bittersweet awareness that as much as I believe whole hearted in the power of these programs, I also knew this session would be my last.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as VISTA Assistant to the Mother Goose Programs, yet as of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002, I turn my post over to **Shannon Rivers**, the new AmeriCorps\*VISTA to the Mother Goose Programs and will accept a new post at Rhode Island READS Resource Center.

I wish all of you the best with your children in the coming years.

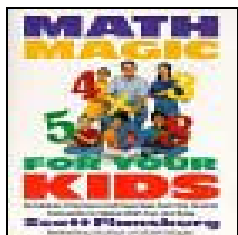
## Book Corner



### Countdown to Spring ! An Animal Counting Book

By Janet Shulman,  
Meilo So, Illustrator

Once spring has sprung, all the little woodland and meadow critters come out to play. From "10 Ladybugs crawling all around the crocuses" to "1 Easter Basket filled with treats for all the animals," The countdown includes peeping chicks, scurrying squirrels, and creeping foxes, all painted in So's spare, appealing watercolors. Learning to count will be easy with this happy, memorable picture book!



### Math Magic for Your Kids by Scott Flansburg

Measuring flour for a birthday cake, setting the dinner table, counting change -- learning these simple skills daunts millions of children. With entertaining games and tricks, this proven method helps kids develop a positive attitude about numbers, the necessary foundation on which they will build math skills for the rest of their education. Riddles and puzzles that activate logic and math basics. Packed with hundreds of games, exercises, and tricks, this innovative book, the perfect device for parents to transform their math-phobic children into math wizards!

## Amazing Web Site

**Get Ready to Read!**  
[www.getreadytoread.org/parents.html](http://www.getreadytoread.org/parents.html)

Welcome parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, foster and step parents and all those who care for young children in their home! This site will provide you with practical information to help the young children you love be ready to learn to read when they enter kindergarten.

**Four sections** of this site will make it easy for you to use, covering the subjects parents most often ask about reading and writing;

#### ◆ Early Literacy

Find out how young children get ready to learn to read and write. Learn what skills help them become successful readers.

#### ◆ Frequently Asked Questions

Go here for answers to questions about getting preschoolers ready to read.

#### ◆ Things to Do

Go here for ideas to do in your home to help your children get ready to read.

#### ◆ Programs & Resources

Learn more about how early childhood programs can support your child's development.

## HINT

Once you get online, there will be a **practice test** you can use to assess your child's reading levels before and after the visit to the sections in the site.

**Enjoy !**

## Calendar of Events

### Celebrate Books Alive! Providence Children's Museum

**Sunday, April 14, 2002**

**1:00, 1:45 and 2:30 pm**

Renowned storyteller, **Diana Jackson**, enlivens Kids 5 and up with humorous folktales told with colorful animals, plants, and people made of velvet, satin, and feathers! A wonderful time for the whole family!

### Turn Off the TV and tune in to Family Story Time at Newport Public Library April 23, 2002

**6:30pm**

Come join the Children's Program Room for traditional stories of adventure, springtime and more!

**Call (401) 847-8720  
for information**

*The RI Mother Goose Programs* were developed by the Vermont Center for the Book in conjunction with the Montshire Museum of Science and the Vermont Department of Libraries.

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**Warm Welcome to:**

**Shannon Rivers,  
AmeriCorps\*VISTA to  
Mother Goose Programs at  
OLIS! Welcome Aboard!!**